(b) The Government of India through National Horticulture Board is promoting creation of additional cold storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses. The National Horticulture Board has sanctioned creation of 30.53 lakh MT capacity through establishment of 681 cold storage in the country since 1999-2000—2002-03.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Government of India, is promoting establishment of infrastructure facilities through providing financial assistance for setting up new food processing units and for expansion/ modernization of existing units. The Ministry also addresses the issues of quality assurance, human resource development relating to food processing industries.

Joint ventures between NDDB and state co-operative milk federations

4339. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the share-holding pattern on joint ventures between National Dairy Development Board and the State Co-operative Milk Federations;

(b) whether under this JV scheme the State Federations would be free to market their own produce or even opt out of the JV proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that milk production has been increasing at the rate of 9 per cent annually and marketing only by 4 per cent; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) (a) and (b) No, Sir. A wholly owned company of NDDB through its subsidiary unit has decided to enter into Joint Ventures with State Cooperative Dairy Federations for the purpose of strengthening the marketing of their liquid milk and identified products under the brand name of the respective Federations. These joint ventures are purely violuntary in nature. The pattern of share holding between the Mother Dairy Foods Limited and the concerned State Dairy Federation will be in the ratio of 51:49.

(c) and (d) The milk production in the country is growing annually at the rate of 4.2%. The procurement of milk in the Dairy Cooperative Sector is increasing at the rate of 9% per annum whereas the growth in marketing is only 4%. Due

to lack of professionalism in milk marketing and stiff competition from other players in the market including private and multinational companies, the milk marketing in cooperative sector is not keeping pace with the growth rate in the procurement.

Incentives for oilseed production

†4340. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soyabean Processing Association of India has urged Government to give incentive to increase the production of oilseeds in lieu of coarse cereals;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a need to give incentive for increasing the production of oilseeds as the production of oilseeds is going down during the last years; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and the action taken by Government to inspire it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No specific suggestions to give incentive to increase the production of oilseeds in lieu of coarse cereals has been sent to the Government. However, Soyabean Processors Association of India has suggested to increase the area of oilseeds by creating an Oil Development Fund proposed to be financed by levying a cess on imported edible oils.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the country and to induce the oilseeds growers to take up the cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to the farmers for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhyzobium culture/ PSB, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets etc. Besides this for transfer of improved production technology frontline demonstrations by ICAR and block demonstrations by State Department of Agriculture are organized.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.